

Dear Opera Lovers,

It is with considerable excitement that Harvard College Opera invites you to experience a timeless classic in our 2017 production of Mozart and Da Ponte's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, HCO (formerly the Dunster House Opera Society) is excited to bring to life this masterpiece of the opera buffa canon and pinnacle of Mozart's musical genius. With more salon drama than a whole season of *Downton Abbey*, this comedy takes place in one uproarious day as Figaro attempts to wed his beloved Susanna, to the chagrin of the Count Almaviva. In February 2017, join us in the historic Agassiz Theatre to watch mistaken identities, disregarded morals, and failed plots drive this upstairs/downstairs story about the intersection between love and class.

We are delighted to have Music Director **Sasha Scolnik-Brower** '17 and Stage Director **Joule Voelz** '17 leading this production. Sasha has been the Music Director of the Bach Society Orchestra since 2014 and has served as the assistant conductor of the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra, studying with Federico Cortese. Formerly, he has served as a guest conductor with Harvard's Mozart Society Orchestra and the Phillips Academy Orchestra. As a cellist, Sasha is currently enrolled in the dual degree program of Harvard University and the New England Conservatory in the studio of Paul Katz. Joule has staffed and performed in over twelve productions with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players, and Harvard College Opera. She has also written and directed several short films through coursework in the Department of Visual & Environmental Studies. Most recently, Joule stage directed HCO's spring 2016 production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Additionally our very accomplished assistant music director **Auburn Lee** '17 and rehearsal pianist **Lloyd Chen** '17 will be fantastic additions to this production. We are incredibly blessed to have such a talented team leading this production, as all of these individuals have established themselves as prolific and well-respected artists on campus.

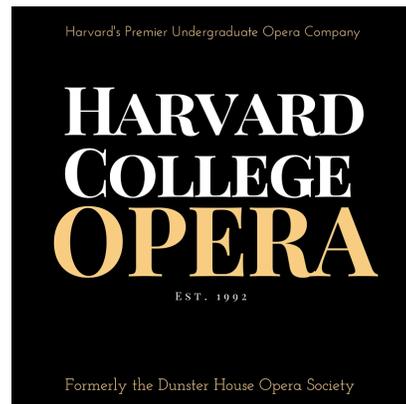
On the production side, we are very fortunate to have a fantastic team of producers this year in **Asia Stewart** '18, **Camille Bélanger** '19, and **Carla Troconis** '19. Asia managed last year's very successful publicity campaign for *Rake's* and has been an invaluable member of the HCO board, as well as an incredibly prolific member of the larger Harvard theater community. Camille has been one of the most enthusiastic and committed new HCO board members, and since she stepped foot on campus she has shown an incredible zeal for the arts. Carla was our assistant stage manager for *Rake's*, and has already made a name for herself as a leader in the Harvard theater community. We also have a wonderful stage manager in **Beckett Mullen** '18, one of HCO's most committed board members, who brings to the production an extensive knowledge of technical theater. And last but certainly not least, we have **Rachel Clemens** '19, one of the MVPs of the *Rake's* orchestra and HCO board, serving as our orchestra manager.

Performances of *Le Nozze di Figaro* will be February 1st, 3rd, 4th, & 5th with a Black-Tie Reception on our Opening Night performance. Please visit our website for more details. Also enclosed is our patron form, with which you can make a tax-deductible donation to support the production. For 25 years, Harvard College Opera has been made possible by patrons like you. Consider making a gift to the company to support the music you love. Any amount you would like to contribute, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

Christina Bianco

Christina Bianco '17
President, Harvard College Opera



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